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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR - 1943.

D. ROCYN JONES,

C.B.E., K.St.J., J.P., M.B., D.P.H.

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER.

ty Hall,

NEWPORT, Mon.

REVIEW

of the

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS

of the

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH.

For the Year ended December 31st, 1943.

SCOPE OF THE REPORT.

Under Article 6(3) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and in accordance with Circular 10/44 (Wales) of the Ministry of Health (Welsh Board of Health), the Annual Report for the year 1943 has again been materially shortened, many items being omitted entirely. Generally, it has been restricted to Vital Statistics and brief comments on vital matters.

The progress of many schemes which were in various stages of preparation has necessarily been seriously interfered with as a result of the outbreak of war.

ALTERATIONS TO BOUNDARIES.

The boundaries of the Administrative County remained unaltered throughout the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) - 340,110
Population (1931) Census, 345,755.
-do- Estimated 1943 - 308,700.

Rateable value	£1,190,428.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£4,403.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The County of Monmouth is partly industrial and partly agricultural. The Rhymney, Sirhowy, Western and Eastern Valleys are thickly populated coal mining districts, in which are also Iron, Steel and Tinplate works. In addition, there are coal by-products plants in some of these districts. The Eastern and Southern portions of the County are practically agricultural communities.

Unemployment has considerably diminished, but in other directions the war has seriously interfered with the general social amenities of the County.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Vital Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1943, compiled by the Registrar-General are as in the subjoined table. The Monmouthshire figures are given for the purpose of comparison.

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	Birth rate per 1,000 Population.				Death rate per 1,000 living		Deaths under one year per 1,000 Births.	
	Live Births 1943	Still Births 1943	Live Births 1942	Still Births 1942	1943	1942	1943	1942
GLAND AND WALES	16.5	0.51	15.8	0.54	12.1	11.6	49.0	49.0
6 County Boroughs d great Towns, cluding London ...	18.6	0.63	17.3	0.66	14.2	13.3	58.0	59.0
e Smaller Towns Estimated resident opulation 25,000 to 0.000 at census 931).	19.4	0.61	18.4	0.62	12.7	12.1	46.0	46.0
ndon	15.8	0.45	14.0	0.48	15.0	13.9	58.0	60.0
NMOUTHSHIRE	18.6	0.70	18.4	0.75	11.49	11.8	44.9	53.0

In all cases the estimated populations as supplied by e Registrar General have been used for the purpose of this table.

RHS. The number of births assigned to the Administrative County 1943 was 5,761 made up as follows :-

	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		GRAND TOTAL
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
an Districts	2592	2253	108	99	2700	2352	5052
al Districts	358	319	14	18	372	337	709
	2950	2572	122	117	3072	2689	5761

There were 62 less births in 1943 than in 1942 when there 5823 births. In 1941, there were 5394 births; in 1940 there were 8 births and in 1939 there were 4,835 births.

The birth rate for 1943 (18.6 per 1,000 persons living) .2 higher than that for 1942 (18.4).

The birth rate for England and Wales for the year 1943 16.5.

For the Urban Districts of the County the birth rate was 9 for 1943, and for the Rural Districts, 16.7 compared with 18.6 17.1 respectively in 1942 and 16.8 and 13.5 in 1941.

The number of births of illegitimate children was 239 ch gives a rate of 41.1 per 1,000 of the total births, and .77 per 00 population. Last year the number was 209 equal to 35.8 per 1,000 ths and .66 per 1,000 of population. For the year 1941, the figures 193 equal to 35.8 per 1,000 births and .59 per 1.000 population.

ES. The total number of deaths registered in the Administrative ty as shown by the Registrar-General's table, was 3,547 as compared 3,735 in 1942, 4001 in 1941, 4,263 in 1940 and 3,921 in 1939.

Deaths of persons temporarily residing in the County on account of the war are not transferable to areas of usual residence.

The general death rate calculated upon the estimate of population submitted by the Registrar-General (308,700), works out at 11.49 per 1,000 living. In 1942, the rate was 11.8; in 1941 the rate was 12.1; in 1940, 13.4 and in 1939. 12.8. For the Urban Districts the rate for 1943 was 11.4 and for the Rural Districts, 11.6.

The County Death rate of 11.49 per 1,000 of population shows a decrease on 1942, when the rate was 11.8, and is also lower than that for England and Wales, 12.1.

STILLBIRTHS. The number of stillbirths recorded during the year was 219 compared with 240 in 1942 and 243 in 1941. The rate per 1,000 of population for 1943 is .70; in 1942 it was .75 and in 1941, .74. The rate continues to compare unfavourably with that for England and Wales, which for 1943 was .51.

WOMEN DYING IN OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF CHILDBIRTH. The number of deaths registered during the year from accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition was 12 - 5 from puerperal sepsis and 7 from other causes associated with childbirth.

This is equal to a rate of 2.09 per 1,000 live births or 2.00 per 1,000 total births (live and still). These figures are slightly higher than those for 1942 (1.88 and 1.81 respectively) which, however, were the lowest ever recorded for this County. Last year was the first time that the Maternal Mortality rate for the County was reduced below that for the whole of England and Wales. Despite the slight increase recorded for the County for 1943, the rate again compares favourably with that for the whole of the country (2.29 per 1,000 total births - live and still).

INFANT MORTALITY. The total number of deaths under one year of age throughout the Administrative County was 259,238 in the Urban Districts and 21 in the Rural Districts.

The rate per 1,000 live births was 44.9. Last year it was reported that the Infantile Mortality rate for 1942 (53.0) although higher than that for England and Wales for the same year (49.0) was nevertheless the lowest rate ever recorded for this County. The rate for 1943 shows a decrease of 8.1 on 1942, and for the first time since 1934 is below the figure for the whole of the country which remains at 49.0. Thus for the first time, both the Maternal Mortality rate and the Infantile Death rate for the County were lower than those for the whole country. It is evident that the measures taken in this sphere of public health work in Monmouthshire are reflected in the good results now being achieved.

In the Urban Districts the rate was 47.1 per 1,000 births, and in the Rural Districts 29.5 per 1,000 births.

In 1942, the Infantile Mortality rate was 54.9; in 1941, 70.4; in 1940 69.9 and in 1939 61.2.

The average infantile mortality rate for the 25 years 1891 - 1915 was 137.4; the average rate for the 25 years 1916 - 1940 was 72.1, and the average rate for the 3 years 1941 - 1943, 56.7.

The number of deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age was 11 or 1.9 per 1,000 of all births, and 46.0 per 1,000 of illegitimate live births. Last year the number of deaths was 22 or 3.7 per 1,000 of all births, and 105.2 per 1,000 of of illegitimate live births.

The measures adopted by the County Council for the reduction of Infantile Mortality are dealt with in the Report upon Maternity and Child Welfare for the year 1943.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of death.	Urban Districts	Rural Districts	Administrative County	Rate per 1,000 Births Administrative County.
Infectious Diseases	7	1	8	1. 4
Diarrhoeal Diseases	23	1	24	4. 2
Wasting Diseases	135	15	150	26. 0
Respiratory Diseases	48	2	50	8. 6
Tubercular Diseases	-	-	-	-
Other Causes	25	2	27	4. 7
TOTALS	238	21	259	44. 9

The number of deaths in the Administrative County from the following diseases was :-

Measles - all ages	6
Whooping Cough - all ages	6
Diarrhoea - under 2 years of age	27.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The accompanying table gives details of the work carried out in the County Laboratory for the year 1943, and also the figures for 1942.

The Laboratory carries out pathological and bacteriological work for the Administrative County, and continues to undertake work for Authorities outside the Administrative County.

The total number of specimens examined shows a slight increase compared with the previous year.

The Table showing number and nature of specimens submitted and the results thereof :-

	1943.			1942.		
	No. Pos.	No. Neg.	Grand Total	No. Pos.	No. Neg.	Total Exam.
Venereal Diseases						
Wasserman Test for Syphilis	810	2217	3027	684	2775	3459
Complement Fixation Test for Gonorrhoea	153	554	707	108	368	476
Smears and Urines for Gonococcus	585	3808	4393	791	3292	4083
Serum for Spirochaeta Pallidum	45	64	109	41	70	111
Examinations. (Sputum - (For Tuberculosis Physicians for T.B.	406	2366	2772	404	1849	2253
(County Cases for T.B. (General Practitioners	34	309	343	58	503	566
(Concentration method for T.B	-	-	-	-	-	-
(For cultivation as well as T.B.	-	-	71	-	-	64
(Throat Nasal and Ear Swabs for Diphtheria	654	2842	3496	776	1849	4151
(Cerebro Spinal Fluid	-	-	69	-	-	100
(Widal Reaction for Typhoid Fever, etc.	5	69	74	12	63	75
(Hairs for Ringworm	9	19	28	1	38	39
(Secretion from Eye	-	-	[illegible]	-	-	67
(Urine (Complete examination)	-	-	310	-	-	269
(Pus	-	-	97	-	-	91
(Effusion	-	-	36	-	-	46
(Vaccine prepared	-	-	73	-	-	68
(Blood Culture	-	-	17	-	-	16
(Miscellaneous	-	-	239	-	-	308
(Urine	-	-	285	-	-	299
(Blood Count	-	-	903	-	-	644
(Autopsy	-	-	90	-	-	94
(Cerebro Spinal Fluid	-	-	69	-	-	52
(Blood Grouping.	-	-	13	-	-	26
(Tissue for Microscopical Exam	-	-	232	-	-	207
(Blood Sugar Estimation	-	-	367	-	-	262
(Blood Urea Estimation	-	-	158	-	-	160
(Urine-Sugar Estimation	-	-	334	-	-	246
(Urine-Urea Estimation	-	-	44	-	-	45
(Test Meal (Fractional).	-	-	23	-	-	97
(Miscellaneous	-	-	377	-	-	259
(Water for Bacteriological Exam.	-	-	221	-	-	201
(Water for Bacteriological (and Chemical Examination	-	-	77	-	-	70
(Milk.						
(Retail Roadside and School Samples	-	-	656	-	-	690
(Graded Samples	-	-	727	-	-	705
(For Chemical Examination	-	-	-	-	-	-
(For Ministry of Agriculture Biological Examination	-	-	148	-	-	73
(Miscellaneous Milk Samples	-	-	163	-	-	114
Animal Inoculation	-	-	1111	-	-	948
T O T A L	-	-	21,872	-	-	21,434

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1936 to 1943.

The total number of Accredited Milk Licences (Renewals and new licences) issued to operate during 1943 was 100 to produce only and 8 to produce and bottle.

The Tuberculin Tested licences issued totalled 61 to produce only and 7 to produce and bottle.

Agriculture Act, 1937.

Attestation standard was reached by 120 herds in the County during the year. The figure was 133 in 1942.

The licence of Attestation is granted by the Ministry of Agriculture.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Monmouthshire Nursing Association, of which Lady Mather Jackson is the Honorary Secretary, continues to do good work. The Association is subsidised by the County Council. Midwifery work in the rural areas and agricultural townships is also performed for the County Council by the Association in accordance with the scheme prepared by virtue of the Midwives Act, 1936.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There was no change in ambulance facilities in the County during the year, neither as regards the transport of infectious nor of non-infectious cases. The A.R.P. Emergency Ambulance Services are efficiently maintained to deal with casualties resulting from enemy action.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The County Council has established 41 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in this County and 19 Ante-Natal Clinics.

The County Education Committee has provided 11 School Clinics.

There are now eight war-time day nurseries at Risca, Blackwood, Crumlin, Cwmbran, Pontypool, Six Bells, Tredegar and Ebbw Vale. Two additional nurseries are due to be opened at Blaenavon and Abersychan early in 1944.

The Tuberculosis Visiting Stations are detailed in previous reports.

There is one Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, details of which will be found later in this report.

The County Council has established 8 Clinics for the treatment of Orthopaedic Cases at Newport, Pengam, Crumlin, Tredegar, Monmouthshire County Hospital, Panteg; Chepstow and Abertillery. The Central Orthopaedic Clinic is at Newport, at which massage, electric treatment and remedial exercises are given.

MEDICAL CONSULTATION CLINIC.

This Clinic was opened on 12th April, 1940, for the consultation of cases referred by the District Medical Officers and by Assistant Medical Officers of the County Staff, as well as cases referred by General Practitioners. The establishment of this Clinic has been of inestimable value as it has placed within

Dr. Ivor Davies, M.D., F.R.C.P., until recently the Senior Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, and Lecturer in Clinical Medicine for the Welsh National School of Medicine, was unanimously appointed Consultant Physician, and he holds approximately twelve Clinics every year for this purpose. The attendance at these has been on an average ten cases which enables adequate investigation to be given to each case. The medical profession in Monmouthshire and the patients themselves have been complimentary and grateful for the services rendered.

HOSPITALS.

Full details of the Hospital Services, Public and Voluntary have been given in previous reports.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

The Local Government Act, 1929, has been responsible for the reduction in the number of Institutions needed for Institutional care of poor persons. The following are the Institutions in use and administered by the Social Welfare Committee - Ty Bryn, Tredegar and Regent House, Chepstow.

POOR LAW MEDICAL OUT RELIEF.

Orthopaedic treatment is carried out under the supervision of the Consultants - Mr. A. Rocyn Jones, F.R.C.S., of Harley Street, London, and Mr. D.N. Rocyn Jones, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. Details of examinations will be found under the heading "Orthopaedic Treatment".

THE CARE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

There were 696 mental defectives on the County Register at 31st. December, 1943; in addition, there were 200 in Certified Institutions, and 26 under guardianship and on licence. A detailed annual report is published separately.

MIDWIVES.

The number of Midwives upon the County Roll at the 31st. December, 1943, was 144.

MATERNAL MORTALITY, HEALTH VISITING, CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

Any matters under these heads requiring special comment are dealt with in the County Maternity and Child Welfare Annual Report for 1943. Certain statistics are also given following the Section "Vital Statistics" in this Report.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

Details of examinations of school children and children under 5 years of age will be found in the County Education and Maternity and Child Welfare Annual Reports for the year 1943.

The services of the Consultants - Mr. A. Rocyn Jones, F.R.C.S., and Mr. D.N. Rocyn Jones, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S., - are also available for adult cases, the following examinations being made during the year :-

	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES.	OTHER ADULT CASES.
Mr. A. Rocyn Jones	4	26
Mr. D.N. Rocyn Jones	53	62.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

Four Nursing Homes remained registered and exemption from registration was granted in 10 instances. No powers were delegated to district councils under Section 194 of the Public Health Act. 1936.

LYDIA BEYNON MATERNITY HOSPITAL. The Coldra, together with 7½ acres of land was gifted to the Monmouthshire County Council by Sir John Beynon, C.B.E. on the 30th. November, 1924, for the purpose of a Maternity Hospital in memory of his mother. The adaptation of the Coldra as a Maternity Hospital marks another step in the steady march of this County towards a reduction of the high incidence of maternal mortality - a matter which has been of grave concern for many years as the Maternal Death rates for this County have consistently been higher than those of England and Wales. Every effort is being made to reduce this unfavourable incidence, and it is gratifying to note that in recording the Maternal Mortality rate of 2.00 per 1,000 births for the County for 1943, the figure is for the second successive year below that for England and Wales which for 1943 was 2.29.

The Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital was formally opened on the 22nd. January, 1940, for the reception of cases of difficult labour. Co-operation between the Ante-Natal Clinics and this Hospital will continue to have far reaching effects upon Maternal Mortality in the County.

394 complicated obstetrical cases were admitted to the Hospital during the year 1943, 344 admitted through the County Ante-Natal Clinics and 50 were Emergency cases.

LLANFRECHFA GRANGE MATERNITY HOME. This Home is administered by the County Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health, for the reception primarily of evacuee expectant mothers. County patients, whose homes are for various reasons unsuitable for their confinements, are also admitted.

The Home was opened in November, 1940. 505 births took place there in 1943. At the end of the year there were 34 beds, but on the instruction of the Ministry of Health, the number has to be reduced to 28. There is no resident Medical Officer, but an obstetric Surgeon, Dr. Glyn Morgan, is on call, as well as Dr. Fleming, Medical Practitioner, residing at Pontnewydd. Dr. Glenys Wade, Assistant Medical Officer, The County Hospital, Pantog, Griffithstown, pays daily visits and is on call for emergencies. Dr. Mary Scott, Assistant Medical Officer, regularly visits the Home. Professor Strachan is also available on call if required.

Other Maternity Homes and Hospitals. Patients were sent by the Council to other Maternity Hospitals when the Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital was full, as follows:- Cardiff Royal Infirmary, Royal Gwent Hospital and Nantyglo and Blaina Hospital, as well as to Ty Bryn Infirmary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY. Full details of existing supplies have been given in previous reports.

Extensive sampling was carried out during the year in connection with water supplies to School Feeding Centres, and also in connection with Harvest Camps inaugurated under the scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The following table has been compiled from information submitted by District Sanitary Inspectors to show the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supplied by Local Authorities' or Statutory Water Undertakers' supplies, for the Urban and Rural portions of the County separately:-

	Urban	Rural	Total
1. Number of Parishes:-			
(a) With Local Authorities' or Statutory Water Undertakers' piped supplies.	28	41	69
(b) Without - do. -	-	18	18
2. In Parishes with L.A. or S.W.U. piped Supplies -			
(a) Number of dwelling houses served	65,443	5,753	71,196
(b) Number of dwelling houses not served	999	3,609	4,208
(c) * Population served	262,459	22,838	285,297
(d) * Population not served	3,941	12,225	16,166
3. In Parishes without L.A. or S.W.U. Piped Supply -			
(a) number of dwelling houses concerned	-	1,836	1,836
(b) Population concerned *	-	7,237	7,237

* Populations given are approximate.

From this information it will be seen that of the total of 77,240 dwelling houses in the County 71,196 have water supplied by Local Authorities or Statutory Water Undertakers, while 6,044 dwelling houses are not so supplied, and that of an estimated population of 308,700 for the County, 285,297 are served with L.A. or S.W.U. piped water supplies, while 23,403 depend on other sources. Of this last figure, 3,941 are in the 18 Urban Areas and 19,462 in the 5 Rural Areas.

18 Parishes in Rural Areas, having 1,836 dwelling houses and affecting 7,237 people, depend entirely upon wells, springs and other untreated sources for their supplies of water. A number of dwelling houses in Rural Areas which are not served by Local Authorities or Statutory Water Undertakers have private piped supplies.

All Parishes of the Urban Districts are served by Local Authorities or Statutory Water Undertakers' piped supplies. Dwelling houses not served by these supplies are chiefly scattered homesteads in inaccessible positions. The need of provision of properly treated piped water supplies to these isolated homesteads in Urban Areas, many of which are small farms engaged in dairying, is as great as that for portions of the Rural Areas.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Full details are given in previous reports.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Progress still continues to be made in the conversion of privies, pail closets, etc. into water closets, this being possible where subsidiary sewers have been provided by the various local Authorities.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of house refuse varies according to the conditions prevailing in the various districts. Usually the refuse is collected two or three times a week. In most instances the work is done by motor lorries fitted with suitable covers.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Mr. J. Jenkin Evans, M.R.S.I., F.S.I.A., the County Sanitary Inspector, assists the County Medical Officer in his sanitary investigations.

SHOPS.

Improvements are still being effected under the various Acts and Orders etc. for the improvement of the health and comfort of workers in shops. The Factories Act, 1937, which came into operation on the 1st. July, 1939, has secured a general improvement in the conditions of factories and work-places.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

New swimming baths and pools in the County are on modern lines with up-to-date filtration and cleansing plants. Facilities are available at the County Public Health Laboratory for the examination of water from swimming baths and pools.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of schools is subject to District Sanitary Inspections, whilst the School Medical Officers and the County Sanitary Inspector also deal with it at their periodical visits to the schools. The special survey by the School Medical Officers of school buildings which commenced in 1925, was continued, and during the year 1943 all school buildings visited by the School Medical Officers were inspected.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS.

The main endeavours of the East Monmouthshire Joint Planning Committee during the past year have been concentrated upon the preparation of Parts 11 and 111 of the Abergavenny M.B. Civic Survey and of the draft Town and Country Planning Proposals for this important market town. In addition, these draft proposals have been fully discussed with and examined by the Abergavenny M.B. Council. This Scheme has been used by the Ministry of Agriculture Rural Land Utilisation Officer as a typical example for co-ordinating and harmonizing agricultural, residential and industrial uses of land in accordance with the recommendations of the Lord Justice Scott Report. In July, the Committee and County were favoured by a personal visit from Mr. W.S. Morrison, Minister of Town and Country Planning, who emphasized that very satisfactory progress had been made and some excellent research carried out by the Joint Committee.

ADULTERATION, etc.

Samples of foodstuffs, including butter, milk, margarine, etc. are sent to Mr. G. Rudd Thompson, F.I.C., Dock Street, Newport, who is the Public Analyst appointed for the County. At a meeting of the Works and General Purposes Committee, held on the 13th. July, 1920, it was decided that the County Medical Officer should exercise general supervision over the action to be taken in pursuance of the Acts and Regulations under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and that he, the County Analyst, and if necessary, the Clerk should confer as to the details necessary to secure observance of the Acts and Regulations.

D AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Full details of the work carried out under the above Act l be found in the Reports of the Chief Inspector to the General poses Committee of the County Council.

The following is the portion dealing with the examination the samples.

During the year 1069 samples were submitted to the Public lyst.

These consisted of 864 samples of milk taken in course of e to the public, 9 Appeal to the Cow samples, and 196 samples of er foodstuffs or pharmaceutical preparations.

Of these, 21 samples of milk were found to be "Not up to Standard", and 6 others were adversely reported upon.

The percentage of adulteration, 2.15, is lower than last r.

The Standard of milk sold to the public is higher than t required by the "Sale of Milk" regulations.

The following figures, FAT 3.68%, SOLIDS NOT FAT 5%, TOTAL SOLIDS AND FAT 12.44%, compare very favourably with those other years.

Two samples suspected to be composed of RE-CONSTITUTED milk re found to be quite normal in composition.

Two samples of Gravy Browning contained a dye stuff in place of Caramel.

The attention of the Ministry of Food was drawn to this ct, but unfortunately they were of little assistance to us in this tter.

Two cereal products were found to be heavily infested with al Mite (TYROGLYPHUS FARINAE), and these were certified as "Unfit r human Consumption".

The remaining stocks were withdrawn and destroyed.

A variety of Foodstuffs, Spices and Beverages were tisfactory in composition and quality.

A considerable variety of Drugs were submitted and with o exceptions were found to be Genuine.

All the pharmaceutical preparations were correctly described s to the various declarations.

Two samples of a patent medicine described as "Family ctor" were found to consist of a solution of Nitric Acid.

The Analyst was of opinion that the indiscriminate use f such a medicine is to be deprecated.

The amount of Fines and Costs collected during the year s £74. 7. 0d.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Isolation Hospitals.

Full details of Isolation Hospitals in the County will be found in the Annual Report for 1938.

Infectious Diseases, 1943.

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases are Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever (including Typhus, Enteric and Continued Fevers) and Diarrhoea (under 2 years).

These diseases caused 47 deaths and gave a Zymotic death-rate of .152 for the County as compared with a rate of .167 for 1942; .316 for 1941; 341 for 1940; and .293 for 1939.

The following table shows the death and attack (notification) rate for Zymotic Diseases in the County of Monmouth during the year 1943.

	No. of deaths	Death rate per 1000 of population.	No. of notifications.	Attack Rate per 1000 of population.
Small Pox	NIL		NIL	
Measles (Including German Measles)	6	.019	4503	14.587
Scarlet Fever	-	-	614	1.989
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	8	.026	272	0.881
Whooping Cough	6	.019	646	2.092
Fever (including Typhus Enteric and continued Fevers)	-	-	-	-
Diarrhoea	27	.088	Not notifiable	-
	47	.152	6035	19.549

SMALL POX.

No case of Small-pox was reported during the year 1943.

VACCINATION.

Under the local Government Act, 1929, the functions relating to Vaccination came under the control of the County Council as and from the 1st April, 1930, as one of the duties relating to infant life protection and public health, and which were formerly discharged by the Poor Law Authorities. This has the effect of making it obligatory to discharge vaccination functions under Public Health and not Poor Law powers. Since the transfer of these functions the work has been administered by the County Medical Officer, and all reports relating to Vaccination are submitted to him. According to the instructions of the Registrar-General, the following is a summary of the returns made by the Vaccination Officer relating to children whose births were registered during the year 1942.

	Per Cent
Successfully vaccinated	30.1
Insusceptible to Vaccination	.3
Had Small-pox	Nil
Declaration of Conscientious objection received	42.5
Died-Unvaccinated	4.5
Postponement by Medical Certificate	1.3
Removal to Districts, the Vaccination Officers of which have been duly apprised	1.2
Removal to places unknown	1.8
Number of cases not included under any of the above-named headings	8.4

SCARLET FEVER.

There has been an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever during the year, 614 cases being notified, as compared with 512 in 1942; 483 in 1941; 824 in 1940 and 524 in 1939. In 1943, however, there were no deaths; in 1942 there was 1 death; in 1941, there were 3 deaths; in 1940 there was 1 death and in 1939, 3 deaths.

Llanfoist Isolation Hospital has been equipped and staffed for the treatment of evacuee children suffering from Scarlet Fever.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified during the year 1943 was 272 which is a decrease compared with the figure for the previous year, when the number was 305. During 1941, 602 cases were notified; in 1940, 624 cases and in 1939 497 cases. The deaths recorded in 1943 were 8; in 1942, 15; in 1941, 44; in 1940, 25 and in 1939, 24.

Snatchwood House, Abersychan, has been equipped and staffed for the treatment of evacuee children suffering from Diphtheria.

The intensive campaign organised in 1942 by the County Health Services to encourage the public to respond to the amenities offered for the immunisation of the child population was continued in 1943.

The Local Authorities are responsible for the age group 5 - 15 and in most areas a satisfactory result was obtained. Bedwas, Ebbw Vale, Blaenavon, Monmouth and Risca and Cross Keys show over 80% immunised; few areas were lower than 50%. It is, of course, much easier to immunise school-children than under 5's, as with the co-operation of the school authorities large numbers can be injected at one visit without any inconvenience to the parents.

In the age-group 1 - 5 years, the same difficulties were experienced as in 1942. Even more mothers were working and unable to arrange for the children to be brought to the Welfare Centres for treatment, and in the rural areas the transport was quite inadequate and sometimes absent. Nevertheless, the position is improving. The mothers who regularly attend the Welfare Centres do ask for appointments now, instead of waiting for the Health Visitor to suggest and persuade immunisation. Bedwas and Caerleon show returns of over 90% immunised. Bedwellty and Blaenavon 80%, but the difficulties encountered in the rural areas are exemplified by the low returns of Magor and St. Mellons and Pontypool Rural, both below 50%.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

During the year 1943, notifications of 38 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were received under the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations from the District Medical Officers of Health. Particulars of Maternal Mortality will be found in the portion of this Report dealing with "Vital Statistics".

INFANTILE DIARRHOEA.

A number of cases of this disease were discovered during the visits to homes through the year. Twenty-seven deaths were registered in children under two years of age, giving a death-rate of .088 per 1,000 population. All cases of which the Health Visitor has knowledge are visited, but it is obvious that very many cases do not come to her notice. This disease is not notifiable.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

One case of Encephalitis Lethargica was notified during the year; in 1942, there were 3 cases; in 1941, there were 3 cases; in 1940, there were 4 cases and in 1939, there was 1 case. No deaths were recorded in 1943, compared with 9 in 1942; 5 in 1941; 5 in 1940 and 10 in 1939. It will be noted that the number of cases notified has not always shown a true incidence of the disease.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Twenty-five cases were notified under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, as compared with 45 cases in 1942; 50 cases in 1941; 64 cases in 1940 and 48 cases in 1939. Further details are given in the Maternity and Child Welfare Report.

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER, ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS AND ACUTE POLIOENCEPHALITIS.

Twenty-one cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever were notified to the County Medical Officer during the year 1943, as compared with 46 during the year 1942, 104 cases in 1941 and 213 cases in 1940. The number of deaths recorded during the year was 6. The cases were notified from the following districts -Abercarn, Abergavenny, Abertillery, Bedwellty, Blaenavon, Chepstow, Cwmbran, Ebbw Vale, Pontypool, Risca, Tredegar Urban and Chepstow Rural District.

There were 2 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis and 2 cases of Polioencephalitis notified during the year. Two deaths were recorded from these diseases. In his return the Registrar-General does not differentiate between deaths from these two causes.

CHICKEN POX.

The disease is not compulsorily notifiable.

MEASLES.

Measles has been a notifiable disease since October, 1939. 4,503 cases were notified during the year 1943. In 1942, 965 cases were notified; in 1941, 4,938 cases and in 1940, 4052 cases. Six deaths were recorded during the year as compared with 3 in 1942, 21 in 1941; 15 in 1940 and 13 in 1939.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease has been notifiable since October, 1939. 646 cases were reported in 1943; 273 in 1942; 1312 in 1941 and 494 in 1940. The number of deaths was 6 compared with 5 in 1942; 20 in 1941; 14 in 1940 and 16 in 1939.

INFLUENZA.

Information regarding the number of cases is difficult to obtain. The number of deaths in 1943 was 84 compared with 48 in 1942; 113 in 1941, 83 in 1940 and 93 in 1939.

Number of persons discharged from the Out-Pat.Clinic after completion of treatment:-						
Syphilis	20	2	22	2	5	7
Soft Chancre	6	-	6	7	-	7
Gonorrheoa	36	64	100	48	53	101
Not suffering from Ven. Disease.	88	204	292	86	212	298
T O T A L S.	150	270	420	143	270	413
Number of persons who ceased to attend the Out-Patient Clinic without completing treatment, and who were suffering from:-						
Syphilis	36	45	81	20	45	65
Soft Chancre	3	-	3	2	-	3
Gonorrheoa	26	39	65	29	63	92
T O T A L S.	65	84	149	52	108	160
Total attendances of all persons at the Out-Patient Clinic who were:-						
Suffering from Syphilis	1649	1700	3349	1707	1984	3691
" " Soft Chancre	47	--	47	54	--	54
" " Gonorrheoa	1090	1207	2297	1317	1440	2757
Not Suffering from Ven.Disease.	200	575	775	197	369	566
T O T A L S.	2986	3482	6468	3275	3793	7068
Aggregate number of "In-patient days" of treatment given to persons suffering from:-						
Syphilis	50	203	253	32	228	260
Soft Chancre	-	-	-	1	-	1
Gonorrheoa	180	7	187	155	-	155
Not suffering from Ven.Disease.	-	-	-	40	12	52
T O T A L S.	230	210	440	228	240	468
Number of persons treated with Salvarsan substitutes	100	167	267	95	171	266

Name of Drug - Bismuth-dose .2gm.	556	768	1324	133	255	388
(Quinostab (Sol.) -dose .3gm.	178	30	208	200	43	243
Bis.Oxycloride (Sol.) dose .2gm.	-	-	-	458	678	1136
Acetylarsen.	-	-	-	-	7	7
T O T A L S.	1174	1536	2710	1185	1744	2929
8. Examination of Pathological material						
Specimens from persons attending at the Treatment Centre which were sent for examination to the independent Laboratory.						
For Kahn.	446	661	1107	-	-	-
" Detection of spirochetes	37	25	62	26	11	37
" " " gonococci	347	2325	2672	374	2608	2982
" Wasserman Reaction	457	700	1157	494	677	1171
Complement Fixation Test	119	280	399	130	254	384
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	2	11	13	6	5	11
Others.	2	170	172	9	174	183
T O T A L S.	1410	4172	5582	1039	3729	4768

The number of practitioners upon the register for the supply of salvarsan substitutes is twenty-four.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This work has been dealt with in a special report.

BLIND PERSONS ACTS, 1920 and 1938.

The number of Blind Persons upon the County Register at the 31st March, 1945, was 663

The Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon to this Authority, Dr. T.J. Roche, examined at the Clinic, Stanley Road, Newport, 258 cases which were referred to this Department for examination under the Blind Persons Acts, 1920 and 1938. The results of his examinations were 89 certified blind; 74 re-examinations; 50 not blind; and in 45 cases, glasses were prescribed in order to prevent blindness. In addition, the Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon performed operations for cataract at the County Hospital, Panteg.

Dr. Evelyn D. Owen, Assistant Medical Officer, made 29 domiciliary examinations as the cases were unable to travel to Newport; 15 of them were found to be blind; and 14 not blind.